

Patten Tells Of Romance With Bebe

TRIB O MAY 17 1950

Evangelist's Husband Quizzed on Work Before Coming Here

C. Thomas Patten, business manager-husband of Evangelist Bebe H. Patten, took the witness stand in the court of Superior Judge Charles Wade Snook today in an effort to convince the jury he is not guilty of nine counts of grand theft totaling \$19,670.

The defendant, speaking in his Tennessee drawl, was led so unhurriedly over his early life that the prosecution frequently objected to the irrelevant and immaterial line of questioning and even the judge urged the defense to hurry and get around to Oakland.

Patten took the stand wearing a light grey double-breasted suit with his cowboy boots and a confident smile.

WORDS EXCHANGED

At one point in the questioning when Patten said he and his wife, Evangelist Bebe Patten, went back to the "southland" a sharp interchange between counsel and witness took place.

When Chief Asst. Dist. Atty. Richard H. Chamberlain complained the "southland is a pretty big territory," Chief Defense Counsel Herman W. Mintz asked Patten what he meant by "southland."

"Man, I've walked the Mason-Dixon line. Brother, I know where the southland is," Patten replied.

"The witness seems to think this is a hippodrome," Chamberlain retorted.

Mintz jumped up and asked that Chamberlain be assigned for misconduct for making such a statement. The request was denied.

MET ON FOX HUNT

Patten, a man who turns a neat phrase in church or courtroom, said he met his future wife, on

"a bright moonlight night on a fox hunt in Tennessee."

He was 21, son of a truck driver, and she, 19, had been a child preacher since she was 14. Two years later, in 1935, they were married at the Lake Village, Ark., Baptist Church with the understanding she was to continue in evangelistic work.

In those days he "didn't know anything about the Bible" he said. He soon learned under his bride's supervision and they conducted revivals in Columbus, Texas, and then went to Los Angeles for a visit.

In 1936 they returned to Bebe's home town of Detroit, Mich.

'WONDERFUL PREACHER'

"My wife was a wonderful preacher even then," Patten commented.

She went there to rest and he went to work for the Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. The latter part of 1936, 10 months later, she was called to Syracuse, New York, to conduct a revival.

Asked how long they were there the witness replied:

"Six or eight weeks. I don't want to say exactly. I don't want to fly that pastor out here for this trial although I'll like to see him."

During these various revivals he didn't do any preaching nor take up any collections.

Patten said that in 1937 his wife accepted the pastorate of the Brookside Tabernacle, a church seating 3000 persons, in Cleveland, Ohio.

FILLED MANY JOBS

"I did everything there from janitor work to broadcasting," he commented.

That, he said, was his first experience with radio while his wife was on the air for several months in a program known as "Sherpherdess of the Air."

It was while they were in Cleveland that he was ordained during a convention of the Fundamental Ministerial Association of America," he testified.

Then his wife gave up that pastorate because she wanted to return to evangelistic work.

"Did you have a charter?" Mintz asked.

"No, sometimes I wish I'd never heard of a charter," Patten replied.

The fact that the Oakland church and school headed by the Pattens is chartered has figured in his current trial.

The slow warm up insisted upon by Mintz who held that is part of Patten's background necessary to aid the jury in making a decision in the case is expected to give way to a climax when Patten, gets to his Oakland career, during which he is accused of bilking members of his wife's congregation.

His appearance on the stand as probable final defense witness has been delayed several days by the clash of prosecution and defense counsel as to the interpretation of figures revealed by the books of the City Club Hotel, which Patten once owned.

The books were brought before the court through George J. Weiser, San Francisco accountant retained by Patten's counsel, in an effort to show that Patten's real estate transactions were self-supporting and not dependent on collections of his wife's church congregation.

Work Begins on Building For New School of Religion

TR E MAY 4 - 1960

The first of seven structures planned for the campus of the Patten School of Religion and Academy of Christian Education at 2433 Coolidge Avenue is now under construction, reports Dr. John Roberto, husband of Oakland Evangelist Dr. Bebe H. Patten.

Work has begun on a \$216,000 two-story concrete building which will contain 23 classrooms, general offices, an auditorium, nursery and publications department. Completion is scheduled for Sep-

tember.

Six other structures will later be built on the 1.76-acre Coolidge Avenue property by the Patten Foundation, Inc., acting as agent for the Christian Evangelical Churches of America, Roberto said.

These are a church, three two-story school buildings, a library and a two-story garage.

At present there is a \$100,000 swimming pool on the property, and Priscilla House, formerly the residence of the late J. R. Millar, Oakland in-

dustrialist.

Students of the School and the Academy will continue to use a church and school at 2372 Telegraph Ave. until completion of the planned Coolidge Ave. structures.

Cathedral Will Be Dedicated Sunday

Dr. Bebe H. Patten will dedicate her new \$700,000 Christian Cathedral at 2433 Coolidge Ave., at 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

The ultra-modern structure includes a 1,100-seat sanctuary, broadcasting studio, a chapel and several smaller rooms.

Construction of the temple began two years ago. It replaces her Christian Temple at 24th Street and Telegraph Avenue, which has been sold and will be torn down to make way for a car wash business.

A month ago a 50-foot, four-ton cross of redwood and steel was erected in front of the cathedral. The cathedral's cornerstone was laid during the same ceremony.

Dr. Patten's million-dollar building program on the site includes a \$300,000 educational building which houses the Patten Schools. She conducts an elementary, secondary school, Bible college and seminary.

The red-haired evangelist, 51, began her ministry here in 1944



DR. BEBE PATTEN

and shortly after that founded the Christian Evangelical Churches of America as an incorporated independent denomination.

Dedication Rites Set At Patten Academy

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Dedication services and an open house for the public will be held at 1:30 p.m. next Sunday at the new Patten Academy of Christian Education facility at 2433 Coolidge Ave.

The new building for grades kindergarten through eight is the third of five structures planned on the Patten campus, designed as an educational park and offering instruction from kindergarten through the four-year Patten Bible College.

Funds for the new \$260,000 structure were raised through programs of the Christian Cathedral Church. The pastor, Dr. Bebe H. Patten, founded the college in 1945 and the academy in 1958.

The new facility was planned with the help of Dr.

Robert G. Lamp, director of the University of San Francisco Educational Planning Laboratory. It includes two primary learning centers, one accommodating grades one through four and the other, five through eight.

Each of the centers is provided with an audio-visual and library resource area and neither has interior partitions, allowing for the grouping of students according to achievement level rather than grade.

The firm of Mullen, Morris and Alexander of Hayward designed the 11,000 square foot, two-story structure, to complement the existing architecture of the high school building, the college and the church.